

FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF GERMAN MILITARY DOCUMENT SECTION

Part I

a. Mission

The missions of GMDS were outlined in Memorandum by Chief, Intelligence Group, dated 5 June 1946, and are listed below. They are carried out in the priority indicated.

- (1) Insure continuous dissemination of information on material available for research by SDS on the USSR.
- (2) Complete cataloguing and maintenance of an active library of German captured documents.
- (3) Receive and process incoming documents giving priority to documents pertaining to USSR.
- (4) Publish catalogue of material in GMDS for information of all authorized agencies.
- (5) GMDS will maintain the library for all German captured documents. Documents will be made available to all authorized agencies on a loan basis.

b. Scope of Documents.

- (1) The GMDS Archive consists of three main sections:

The Army Archive -- (Heeresarchiv)

The High Command Archive -- (OKW-OKH)

The SS and General Archive.

It is estimated that the entire collection, including 581 cases of documents yet unopened, weighs between 300 and 350 tons. There are approximately 173,500 documents on the shelves, and of this number over half (97,786) have been catalogued, and 75,314 remain to be catalogued.

- (2) Army Archive (Heeresarchiv)

The Army Archive consists of the journals (with appendices thereto) of German field units. This includes Army Groups, Armies, Corps, and Divisions; also included are the Army Commanders in Occupied Territories and Rear Area Commanders.

(3) The High Command Archives (OKW - OKH)

The High Command Archives include documents of the High Command of the Armed Forces (OKW), the High Command of the Army (OKH), high level military and ministerial organizations on policy level which had bearings or connections with the Armed Forces, and documents of the High Commands of the Air Force and Navy (OKL-OKM) which pertain to ground matters. This collection contains, for example, documents of the Army General Staff Division of Foreign Armies East (matters concerning the USSR) and Foreign Armies West (dealing with Spain, Portugal, Latin America, etc.) Other groups of this archive are the Armed Forces General Staff (Wehrmachtführungstab), the various branches of the Army General Staff, the Army Personnel Office (Heerespersonnelamt) which include approximately 70,000 personnel files of German regular army officers, a large collection of documents of the Office of Army Transportation (Chef des Transportwesens), and documents from the Ministries of War, Armament, and War Production.

(4) The SS and General Archive

Most of the documents in this section were captured during the war and sent to the Washington Branch, MIRS for exploitation and storage. In June 1945 they were sorted and filed according to the German Standard Filing System (Einheits-saktenplan) by the then newly activated German Military Document Section at Camp Ritchie. All the miscellaneous documents shipments that have been received since that time have been added to this collection. The more important parts of this archive are as follows: The Nazi Party Organization (NSDAP) and the various branches of the SS and Waffen SS. This includes espionage and counter-espionage, concentration camp records, journals of the field units of the Waffen SS, etc. The General Archive also contains records of civilian production and manpower, I.G. Farben files, and unit files of the Replacement Training Army (Ersatzheer). A large portion of this archive is the publication section which includes German field manuals and technical manuals and other military books and periodicals.

(Note: The majority of above mentioned documents in GMDS are co-owned by the British).

c. Value of Documents.

(1) The German Military Archives contained in GMDS are a unique source for intelligence material. Of specific intelligence interest are German documents pertaining to the USSR and its satellites. German intelligence agencies - for instance: G-2's of the German Field Armies, Office of Foreign Armies East, The German Foreign Institute, etc.-carried out extensive and detailed intelligence research on the USSR.

Description of railroads, roads, terrain, targets, etc. are available of German occupied territories in the East. German documents furnish raw material for answers on problems outlined in the Basic Intelligence Directive.

(2) In addition to intelligence exploitation German captured documents are presently utilized by the Historical Division, the FBI, the War Crimes Branch.

d. Present Work.

At present the work in GMDS falls into two parts:

(1) Archives. Receives and sets up incoming documents prepares catalogues for publication and dissemination, keeps records of documents stored in the Alexandria warehouse, sets up a receipt system for documents on loan to outside agencies.

(2) Exploitation. Furnishes SDS with available material on the USSR, sets up and disseminates an intelligence index on intelligence material contained within the archives. The Basic Directive of the Intelligence Division serves as a guide. (See sample intelligence index cards attached).

e. Present Organization.

To fulfill the mission laid down for GMDS, the section is organized in the following three sub-sections:

(1) Administration.

Personnel.	2 Officers
	1 EM
	1 Civilian

(2) Archives Sub-Section.

Personnel.	3 Officers
	5 EM's
	7 Civilians

(3) Exploitation Sub-Section.

Personnel.	4 Officers
	2 EM's
	4 Civilians

(4) Total GMDS

4 U.S. Officers
5 U.S. EM's
2 British Officers
3 British O.R.'s
3 Canadian Officers
12 Civilians

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Part II

a. FUTURE ORGANIZATION AND WORK.

(1) The anticipated loss of all civilian employees in GMDS in October and the new allotment of 5 officers and 15 EM's (U.S.) necessitates a change of organization and work in GMDS. Carefully selected civilian research analysts and linguists will have to be replaced by enlisted men. Enlisted personnel with military research and language background is practically non-available.

(2) It is planned to reduce activities in the Archive Sub-Section to maintenance and to filling of requests for German documents (1 Officer and 3 EM's).

(3) The remaining personnel will be employed to speed up the production of the intelligence index. It is felt that prior to a turnover of documents to the Historical Division or the Adjutant General the ready availability (through the intelligence catalogue) of all intelligence material in the Archives is of prime importance.